

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 and 14-20 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Distraction ~~apparatus~~ appliance for orthodontic/orthognathic and maxillofacial surgery purposes on the mandible for the distraction of an anterior mandibular bone segment above the chin bone against the lower mandibular rim, said appliance comprising,

a first distractor module and a second distractor module, wherein the first distractor module is ~~essentially~~ substantially U-shaped and adapted to a dental arch and has a mid-segment and on both sides thereof an end-segment, wherein ~~the corresponding~~ each end-segment is connected to the mid-segment via a linear distraction element and wherein each end-segment has ~~fixation means~~ for fixating the respective end segment, and

~~where~~ wherein the second distractor module is related to a ~~frontal~~ an anterior mandibular bone segment above the chin bone to be moved and ~~is fixating the same~~ and has ~~fixation parts~~ means for fixating the same.

2. (Previously Presented) Distraction appliance according to claim 1, wherein the corresponding end-segments of the first distractor module have fixation elements for an attachment on the lateral teeth.

3. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 1, wherein the means for fixating the end-segments of the first distractor module ~~provide~~ include bone screw fixation elements for a screw fixation ~~by means of bone screws~~ on the mandible.

4. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 1, wherein ~~the corresponding~~ each distraction element is constructed from at least three elements which are connected to each other, where the first element ~~takes the form of a sleeve and pivoting~~ is screwed inside the second and third element ~~are screwed in~~ with counter rotational threads such that a rotation of the first element in one or the other sense results in a lengthening or shortening of the distraction element.

5. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 4, wherein ~~in the area of the corresponding distraction element~~ a section point is provided in the area

of each distraction element in which the an end-segment thereof can be resolved from the mid-segment.

6. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 1, wherein the second distractor module takes the shape of a hinge ~~(14)~~ with two hinge-halves, where one hinge-half is ~~relating to~~ associated with the chin and the other hinge-half to the frontal bone segment to be distracted.

7. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 6, wherein the hinge axis is ~~about~~ approximately parallel to the occlusal plane and vertical to the sagittal plane.

8. (Previously Presented) Distraction appliance according to claim 6, wherein the hinge has a stop position for limiting the rotation range of the hinge-halves.

9. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 6, wherein the ~~fixation parts are formed by~~ fixating means include at least one drill holes hole.

10. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 9, wherein the drill hole is ~~formed by~~ a slotted hole ~~(12)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 10, wherein the slotted hole ~~is formed by~~ includes a plurality of partially overlapping drill holes such that a plurality of discrete fixation positions are provided.

12. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 10, wherein further comprising a guiding sleeve ~~is~~ inserted in the slotted hole, which is movable along the slotted hole, and where wherein a fixation screw ~~can be~~ inserted into the guiding sleeve.

13. (Previously Presented) Distraction appliance according to claim 12, wherein the guiding sleeve can be clamped inside of the slotted hole.

14. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 12, wherein further comprising a cable linkage ~~is~~ attached ~~on~~ to the guiding sleeve, by means of which linkage the ~~leg~~ portion bearing this guiding sleeve of the second distractor module can be pivoted around the hinge axis.

15. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 14, ~~wherein the cable linkage can be tautened by means of a screw element held in a bearing~~ further comprising a bearing and a screw element held therein for tightening the cable linkage.

16. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 6, wherein ~~the one hinge-half is V-shaped and where~~ wherein fixation parts are provided on the two free ends of the two legs ~~fixation parts are provided~~ hinge halves.

17. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 14, wherein an additional fixation point is provided at the connection point between the two legs hinge halves.

18. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 1, wherein the second distractor module is held ~~pivoting~~ pivotally mounted on the mid-segment of the first distractor module.

19. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 18, wherein the second distractor module is a cantilever, whereas this cantilever is connected to the mid-

segment of the first distractor module ~~(1)~~ and whereas the cantilever has fixation parts for the frontal bone segment.

20. (Currently Amended) Distraction appliance according to claim 19, wherein the second distractor module is an U-shaped cantilever ~~(31)~~ with two legs and a mid-segment connecting the two legs, whereas the mid-segment is connected to the mid-segment of the first distractor module and whereas the free ends of the two legs provide fixation parts.

21. (Previously Presented) Distraction appliance according to claim 18, wherein the second distractor module is an essentially beam-shaped cantilever which has fixation parts on its free ends.

22. (Previously Presented) Distraction appliance according to claim 19, wherein the cantilever can be shortened or lengthened by means of an adaptation mechanism.

23. (Previously Presented) Distraction appliance according to claim 22, wherein the adaptation mechanism has a spindle drive with shaft joint.